



NOAA
FISHERIES

Pacific Islands
Regional Office

Plan Implementation Status

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Timeline

- Take Reduction Plan final rule published November 29, 2012
- Permit holder letters and compliance guide mailed on December 4, 2012
- OLE outreach to fishing vessels and gear supply shops December 2012 and January 2013
- Effective date of regulations:
 - December 31, 2012 – all except gear requirements
 - February 27, 2013 – gear requirements for deep-set fishery

TRP Regulatory Measures

- MHI Longline Fishing Prohibited Area
- Expanded content of Protected Species Workshops
- Required posting of marine mammal handling placard
- Required posting of captain notification placard
- Captains must supervise marine mammal handling/release
- Weak circle hooks
- Minimum diameter for branch lines
- Southern Exclusion Zone

Status of Implementation – Regulatory Measures

Effective December 31, 2012

- MHI Longline Fishing Prohibited Area
 - Change occurred during seasonal boundary contraction (October-January)
 - Monitoring compliance via VMS (Take Tomson will provide update)
- Expanded content of Protected Species Workshops
 - Classroom content updated, online training update in progress
 - Expanded marine mammal ID
 - Serious vs. non-serious injuries
 - Reporting requirements (MMAP mortality/injury form)
 - TRP requirements
 - Handling/release (including videos)

Status of Implementation – Regulatory Measures

Effective December 31, 2012

- Posting of placards on longline vessels
 - Placards mailed December 4, 2012 and available at Pier 38
 - Revised handling/release placards mailed May 10, 2013

Notify Captain Immediately if a Whale or Dolphin is Hooked or Tangled in Fishing Gear

Ipagbigay alam agad sa kapitan kung ang balyena o lumba-lumba ay nakasabit o nakabuhol sa tali

Beritahukan Kapten Kapal segera ketika seekor Paus atau Lumba-Lumba terjerat atau tersangkut mata pancing

Thông báo cho thuyền trưởng ngay lập tức nếu một con cá voi hay cá heo bị vướng vào dây câu hoặc bị móc bằng lưới câu



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Marine Mammal Handling and Release Guidelines

SAFETY FIRST!

Hooked or entangled marine mammals can be very powerful and unpredictable.

Small Whales and Dolphins (such as short-finned pilot whales, false killer whales, and Risso's dolphins)

1. Make sure the crew is ready to help, and have dehooking and line-cutting equipment available.
2. Avoid sudden actions and movements that may scare the animal.
3. Do NOT use gaffs or sharp objects to grab or hold an animal.
4. **Determine if the animal is hooked or entangled.**



False Killer Whale

If the animal is hooked:

1. Maintain tension on the line, giving the hook a chance to straighten and release the animal without the hook or trailing line attached.
2. If the hook does not straighten, use a dehooker to remove the hook.
3. If the hook is not straightened or removed, use a long-handled line cutter to cut the line as close as you can to the hook.



Risso's Dolphin

If the animal is entangled:

1. If the mainline and branchline are tangled around the animal, secure the far side of the mainline to the boat. This will keep any remaining gear in the water from pulling on the line and the animal.
2. Use a long-handled line cutter to cut as much line off the animal as you can.

Large Whales (such as fin whales, sperm whales, and humpback whales)

- If a large whale is alive and hooked or entangled in fishing gear, immediately call the Disentanglement Hotline at 1-888-256-9840, or the U.S. Coast Guard on VHF Ch.16 for instructions.
- Move the vessel to minimize tension on the fishing gear.
- If a large whale is dead and hooked or entangled in fishing gear, immediately call the U.S. Coast Guard on VHF Ch.16 for instructions.



Humpback Whale

For All Interactions

- **The captain must be notified to supervise the handling and release of the animal.**
- Have an identification guide, pen and paper available.
- Write down a description of the animal and its injuries (take photos if possible):
 - How long was the animal?
 - What did the animal look like? Did it have stripes, spots, or different colors?
 - Was there fishing gear on the animal when it was released? If so, where, what kind, and how much?
 - Did you see any tags on the animal? If yes, did you see any letters or numbers on the tag?

After an interaction with a marine mammal, get the rest of your fishing gear out of the water. Then record all the information about the interaction on your Marine Mammal Authorization Program Mortality / Injury Reporting Form, even if you had an observer aboard. Mail the form when you get to port.

CAUTION: Whales and dolphins may become hooked or entangled by longline gear, especially while eating bait or catch. If you suspect marine mammals are eating your bait or catch, consider moving 100 kilometers / 54 nautical miles or more to reduce the chance of marine mammal interactions.

For more information, contact NOAA Fisheries Pacific Islands Regional Office, Sustainable Fisheries Division at (808) 944-2200.



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Status of Implementation – Regulatory Measures

Effective December 31, 2012

- Captain supervision of marine mammal handling/release
 - Requirement is emphasized during Protected Species Workshop
 - Info on roles and actions is obtained and considered during observer debriefing
 - Sometimes not possible to comply (e.g., very brief interaction is over before captain can be awakened)
- Southern Exclusion Zone
 - Developed coordination protocol for making/documenting injury determinations
 - Prepared template temporary rule package for SEZ closure, to enable faster implementation
 - Tracking observed interactions and reporting confirmed interactions to TRT via email
 - One false killer whale serious injury counted toward trigger; convened TRT teleconference (March 2013)

Status of Implementation – Regulatory Measures

Effective February 27, 2013

- Hook and branch line requirements
 - Observer data forms updated to collect info on hook wire diameter and cross-section shape (flat/round)
 - Initial implementation concerns
 - Hook supply – shops could not order supplies until final specifications known (final rule)
 - Communication/outreach to fleet

TRP Non-Regulatory Measures

- Increase systematic observer coverage in deep-set fishery (to increase precision of bycatch estimate)
- Notify TRT of observed false killer whales and blackfish
- Expedite species ID and injury determinations for false killer whales and blackfish
- Changes to observer training and data collection protocols
- Expedite process of 2010 cetacean assessment survey data and provide results to TRT
- Reconvene TRT at regular intervals

Status of Implementation – Non-Regulatory Measures

- Increase systematic observer coverage
 - Implemented since 2011 – minimum of 15% every quarter
- Notify Team of observed interactions
 - Emails to TRT when confirmed interactions
- Expedite false killer whale injury determinations
 - Developed coordination protocol (further discussion tomorrow)
 - One “fast track” interaction - injury determination in 19 business days

Status of Implementation – Non-Regulatory Measures

- Changes to Observer Program data collection protocol and training
 - Changes implemented; further discussion tomorrow
- Expedite analysis of HICEAS data and provide information to TRT
 - Preliminary data shared at July 2011 TRT meeting; false killer whale abundance estimation paper provided to TRT in June 2012
 - Updated abundance estimates for all Hawaii cetaceans will be provided in draft 2013 SARs (summer 2013)
- Reconvene TRT at regular intervals
 - December 2012 webinar, March 2013 teleconference, May 2013 in-person meeting; future meeting schedule TBD (discuss on Friday)

Questions?